



# National's Youth Plan

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NATIONAL PARTY LEADER

National's Youth Plan is about giving young New Zealanders the opportunity and responsibility to better themselves, no matter what their circumstances, abilities, or track record.

## Youth Guarantee

National expects that all young people under the age of 18 should be in work, education, or training.

- National will provide a universal education entitlement for all 16- and 17-year-olds. This will allow them to access, free of charge, a programme of educational study towards school-level qualifications.
- Most will continue their education at school. However, the entitlement will allow 16- and 17-year-olds to access education at a non-school provider if it can better meet their needs. For example, a polytechnic, wananga, or private training establishment.
- Courses offered under the Youth Guarantee will have to meet strict quality criteria.
- This new entitlement will be on top of, not instead of, the education entitlements young people have now.
- Sixteen and 17-year-olds who are not working, and who fail to take up this new entitlement, will not be eligible to receive a benefit.



## Youth Justice

It's time to provide the Youth Court with a modern set of tools for getting teenagers out of the crime cycle. We must act now to defuse these unexploded human time-bombs.

1. **Extending the jurisdiction of the Youth Court:** National will give the Youth Court the power to deal with 12- and 13-year-olds accused of serious offences.
2. **New orders for the Youth Court:** National will give the Youth Court the power to issue a new range of compulsory orders. We will back these orders up with funding for the relevant services.
  - **Parenting orders:** Parenting courses to address problems at home that may be contributing to a young person's offending.
  - **Mentoring programmes:** Providing role models to young offenders for a period of up to 12 months.
  - **Drug and alcohol rehabilitation programmes:** Designated funding to help get young offenders sober.
3. **Tougher Sentences:** National recognises that some young people have committed crimes so serious and so chilling that we must take drastic action:
  - **Longer residential sentences:** Up to six months in a Youth Justice facility.
  - **Fresh Start Programmes:** Revolutionary, year-long, intensive programmes designed to instil discipline and address underlying causes of offending; including up to three months of residential training at, for example, an army facility.
  - **Spotlight Sentences:** Non-compliance with these court-ordered supervision contracts will result in electronic monitoring using an ankle bracelet.